**EnrollJeffco Round 2**

If your student is currently in a GT Center classroom, or is newly qualified for GT Center and you haven’t enrolled through EnrollJeffco, you will need to login and fill out a Round 2 application. Round 2 applicants are sent offers based on space availability. Once there is no availability your student will be placed on a waitlist. If you have questions, please contact the school you are applying to.

**CogAT Info Night - April 9**

The Cognitive Abilities Test 7 or CogAT 7 is used to assess students’ abilities in reasoning and problem solving using verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal assessments. We will be discussing what these scores mean and how they can be better used to understand the learner.

Please join us for the CogAT Info Night on Tuesday, April 9 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm in the Jeffco Ed Center Board Room on the 5th floor at 1829 Denver West Dr., #27, Golden, CO 80401.

Please contact the GT Office at 303-982-6650 if you will need an ASL or language translator.

**Affective ALP Goals**

Jeffco will be implementing Affective goals on all Advanced Learning Plans (ALP) next year, in accordance with Colorado Department of Education (CDE) guidelines. The Exceptional Children's Education Act (ECEA) Rules state that an ALP is “a written record of a gifted student's strengths, academic and affective learning goals and the resulting programming utilized with each gifted child and considered in educational planning and decision making” [12.01(2)]. Affective goals reflect development of personal, social, communication, leadership, and/or cultural competency, and as with all ALP components, parents and students should be active participants in the ALP process. We are developing a bank of resources to assist all stakeholders in this critical process to support the needs of our students. More information on the requirement can be found on CDE’s GT Affective Development website.

**End of Year ALP Close-Out**

As the year is coming to an end, teachers and students will review the progress the students have made toward meeting their Advanced Learning Plan (ALP). From March through the beginning of May, and depending on the age of the students, teachers and students use data from classroom assessments, project rubrics, and individualized anecdotal data to determine whether the student has met his or her goal. Even though a student’s goal will be closed for the year, their ALP remains with them and they will set a new goal at the beginning of the next school year.

Click here to see the see details of the ALP Lifecycle.

The Colorado Department of Education's (CDE) website contains resources detailing the requirements of an ALP. For more information, see Colorado Department of Education Advanced Learning Plans.

**SPARKS Camp Fees**

The SPARKS Camp registration closed on March 30. Fees have been posted to your students Jeffco Connect account. Be sure to put the class fees in the basket. All fees are due by May 31, 2019.
DO WE NEED TO 'RETHINK GIFTEDNESS'?  

About a year ago, a Stanford professor named Jo Boaler released a short film on 'Rethinking Giftedness' that stirred up great controversy in the gifted education community. In the video, Boaler interviews a number of young adults she encountered in her work as a university professor, who, as Boaler notes in the introductory remarks to the film, "had been labeled as 'gifted' or 'smart,' when they were in school, and these labels, intended to be positive, had given them learning challenges later in life." She also interviews several children at a local elementary school who share their experience of "learning without labels", comparing the different experiences. The basic premise of this project is that any kind of labeling of students is potentially damaging.

The video prompted numerous responses throughout the gifted community, including this thoughtful and well-informed blog from Dr. Gail Post: "No It’s Not Time to Ditch the Gifted Label". Post pushes back on both Boaler’s methodology and rationale, while also asserting the advantages of identifying students as gifted.

In a perfect world we might not need any labels at all. Each teacher would be completely equipped with the skills and training to identify and serve the needs of all learners, with all the various special needs, including autism, severe emotional and behavioral needs, visual- and hearing-impaired students, health needs, English Language Learners, students from poverty, those who have suffered severe trauma, etc., and all classrooms would have the resources and environment to meet these needs. Unfortunately, we do not live in such a world. The ‘gifted label’ isn’t designed as something to put students into a box or as some form of status, but instead to identify needs and potential programming to meet those needs.

That said, there is something to take away from Boaler’s video project. We never want to assume that our gifted students are going to have no difficulties, that they are somehow inherently ‘better’ than other students, to reinforce a ‘fixed mindset’ (a term coined by Carol Dweck) that might hinder their growth, or to think “they’ll be fine on their own”. Assumptions and stereotypes are always dangerous, but so is ignoring student need. Giftedness is not merely a label, but an approach to meeting student need.

Jeffco Virtual Academy for GT Online Classes for Middle School Students

Do you have a middle school student on an ALP? Do you feel they may need an additional challenge in one of their subject areas? Consider having them try one of our new GT online courses! Students remain at the neighborhood school, but can have the opportunity to work on this class both during a period of their school day, and at home. Registration for Jeffco's Online GT Courses is now OPEN for the 2019-2020 school year! This new program offers 7th & 8th grade core classes (Social Studies, Science, Language Arts, & Math).

- Classes are taught by certified GT teachers and offer the opportunity for GT students to participate in an engaging online curriculum that incorporates both the academic and social-emotional needs of gifted students.
- Families may work with JVA and their home schools in order to arrange for their gifted children to take one or more GT courses during their school day in their area(s) of strength.

Please see our website for eligibility requirements and more information, or feel free to contact us with questions.

JAGC Newsletter Info

The Jeffco Association for Gifted Children (JAGC), an affiliate of our state GT organization, the Colorado Association for Gifted & Talented (CAGT, coloradogifted.org) has just release a new newsletter with great info for GT families. Check it out at jeffcogifted.org. Also see the list of Student Summer Programs they have compiled – some fantastic opportunities for students to stay engaged over the summer!
Applications are currently open for Wheat Ridge High School GT Center students to apply for a one-of-a-kind scholarship, which is sponsored by the Patrick Straut Foundation. Honoring the life and lessons learned from Patrick Taylor Straut, this scholarship has been given since 2013 to GT Center students who have benefited from their time in the center. This year’s senior class is the largest one yet, and fund-raising is currently underway. If you would like to donate, learn more about Patrick’s story, or explore the scholarship further, you can visit the foundation’s website at:

http://patrickstrautfoundation.org/scholarship-application-process.html

All Donations are Tax Deductible, 100% of Funds received support Scholarships.

To donate, please consider sending a check to: Patrick Straut Foundation

c/o Terri Straut

5356 S. Taft St.

Littleton, CO 80127

or donate through PayPal at: http://patrickstrautfoundation.org/donate-now.html

Wheat Ridge HS GT Center Class of 2019

Wheat Ridge High School - GT Night 2019

Saturday, April 27 promises to be an amazing day for the Wheat Ridge community when the Wheat Ridge High School Gifted and Talented Center is excited to present its fifth annual GT Night! Choosing the theme Camp ALM, GT sophomores are busy planning and coordinating this unique, popular event that was begun as a way to welcome upcoming freshmen as well as to educate the community about the GT Center. Music, booths and activities with such themes as making jewelry making, music, sports, art, literature, photography, computer games, books, and SO MUCH MORE will share space with quirky Camp ALM characters and food trucks. The evening ends with a program in the auditorium where students showcase their talents, from singing to dancing to stand up comedy, and a student panel will be on hand to answer questions about the program as well. The fun goes from 4 pm to 7 pm. Please plan on joining us on the Farm to experience the joys of students who have found ‘their people’ and are thriving as a result. See you there!

Wheat Ridge High School, 9505 32nd W. Avenue, Wheat Ridge, CO

If you need further information, please email eholm@jeffco.k12.co.us or jklee@jeffco.k12.co.us